

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /080 W

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R 171515Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1168

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OUAGADOUGOU 0788

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UV MR SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: MAURITANIA DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 0566

1. AS ANTICIPATED REFTTEL, MAURITANIAN FINANCE MINISTER MOULAYE MOHAMED ARRIVED IN OUAGADOUGOU MARCH 12 AND DELIVERED PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MOKTAR OULD DADDAH TP PRESIDENT LAMIZANA.

2. IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS, MOULAYE MOHAMED TOOK POSITION THAT WESTERN SAHARA HAD HISTORICALLY ALWAYS BEEN PART OF MAURITANIA AND THAT IT WAS ONLY NORMAL THAT IT SHOULD NOW RETURN TO THE "MOTHER COUNTRY". HE DEPLORED ALGERIA'S ACTION IN ARMING AND ENCOURAGING AGAINST MAURITANIA A "BAND OF EXILES" LIVING IN ALGERIA.

UPON HIS RETURN FROM OAU CONFERENCE AND VISITS TO VOLTAN EMBASSIES ABROAD, FOREIGN MINISTER ALFRED KABORE GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE ON MARCH 15, IN WHICH HE COMMENTED ON PROBLEM OF WESTERN SAHARA. HE SAID THAT, AT OAU CONFERENCE, UPPER VOLTA
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HAD GIVEN ITS SUPPORT TO PRINCIPLE OF SELF DETERMINATION AND

HAD DENOUNCED MADRID ACCORD WHICH HAD "HASTILY" CEDED
WESTERN SAHARA TO MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA. WITH REGARD TO
POLISARIO FRONT, KABORE SAID THAT UPPER VOLTA WANTED TO HAVE
MORE DETAILED INFORMATION BEFORE TAKING POSITION.

4. COMMENT: KABORE'S STATEMENT CAME AS SURPRISE TO MOST
OBSERVERS WHO HAD ASSUMED UPPER VOLTA WOULD REMAIN STRICTLY
NEUTRAL ON WESTERN SAHARA PROBLEM.
GRAHAM

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